

# bulletin

## State and Federal News

### Arts Commission Executive Director to Retire

*Suddenly I realize*

*That if I stepped out of my body I would  
break*

*Into blossom.*

--James Wright

Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) Executive Director Shelley Cohn has announced her retirement, effective October 6, 2005. Cohn has served with six Arizona governors as executive director since 1984. She has worked with the agency since 1976.

During her tenure, she helped raise the profile of the arts in the state through a series of collaborations with artists and arts organizations, community organizations and schools and with other divisions of state government. Among the state government agencies engaged in working relationships with the ACA are the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Main Streets, Arizona Mexico Commission, Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Arizona Office of Tourism.

"Shelley's impact on the arts in Arizona cannot be overstated. For over 21 years she has provided calm and competent leadership working with six governors, hundreds of legislators and dozens of Commission members to produce a state arts program recognized nationally for its innovations, its inclusiveness and its outreach to Arizona residents. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve with her," said outgoing ACA Chair Dennis Kavanaugh.

Under Cohn's leadership, more Arizona citizens than ever before have been able to participate in the arts. To ensure that the broadest range of citizens have access to the arts, the state has supported innovative strategies to fund the arts that complement the annual appropriation through the Arizona Arts Trust Fund and Arizona ArtShare, the state's arts endowment.



Shelley Cohn

"We have been fortunate to have Shelley working for the arts in our community," said Governor Janet Napolitano. "Her dedication to the arts through three decades as director of the Arts Commission has been phenomenal - we have an arts community in Arizona that we can be proud of. My congratulations go out to Shelley on her well-deserved retirement-she will be missed."

Cohn is a recognized and respected leader in the arts both regionally and nationally, having served on the boards of the Western States Arts Federation, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Grantmakers in the Arts and on review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The Arizona Commission on the Arts has been my passion for nearly 30 years," Cohn said. "I could not have imagined a better situation for me and I am proud of what we've been able to achieve through the dedication, commitment and collaboration of the business and arts communities working together. The staff at the Commission is second to none. But change is good, for both me and

for the agency. I need to explore another side of my life and I believe the time is right to bring new thinking and new leadership to build upon the foundation we have built here."

Kavanaugh said a search for a new executive director will begin "as quickly as we can put the process in place."

#### New Chair & Commission Members

Governor Janet Napolitano recently appointed Virginia Cardenas of Chandler to be Commission Chair, and five new Commission members to three-year terms on the Arizona Commission on the Arts: Shirley Chann, Tucson; Jacqueline Jean Davidson, Whetstone; Brooke Davis, Tucson; Darryl Dobras, Tucson; and Alison Hughes, Tucson.

Virginia Cardenas is an intervention assistant at Chandler High School, and has a distinguished record of serving the community and arts as a board member of Xicanindio Artes, Inc. and the Hispanic Center for Excellence at The University of Arizona; commissioner for Housing and Human Services in Chandler, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts since 2000. Ms. Cardenas received the Community Involvement Award from Chicanos Por La Causa in 1999.



Virginia Cardenas

## **Arts Commission Announces \$3,144,342 in Statewide Grant Awards for Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

On June 30, 2005, the fifteen Governor-appointed members of the Arizona Commission on the Arts approved \$3,144,342 in matching grants to arts and community organizations and schools for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. These grants are funded from the state's general fund, Arizona Arts Trust Fund, Arizona ArtShare, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Commission's grants program is administered by a staff that travels the state to encourage communities to develop arts programs that serve the needs of their citizens. The staff provides expertise to help individual artists, established and developing arts organizations, and schools to develop strong proposals for funding, and to build programs that broaden, deepen, and diversify individual cultural experiences for people, and strengthen local communities. In this way, we work to build a better Arizona through the arts.

The Commission is pleased to recognize 133 arts organizations with general operating support grants for providing ongoing public programming. These organizations are expanding audiences, working to continually improve their artistic and management development and committed to increasing the ethnic diversity of their boards. The Commission will also be a partner in 311 projects, serving every county of the state.

All grants were recommended for funding through a public peer review, with a total of 444 awards made. Significantly, 99 (or 22 percent) of the funded proposals were to organizations that had not applied for funding last year, assuring that the Commission is responding to our growing state, and reaching new communities.

ACA believes that arts education is an integral part of a well-rounded education, and this year 223 (or 50 percent) of the funded proposals support arts education programs in the schools or after-school directly or indirectly.

Arizona has a rich tradition of cultural diversity in the arts, and 62 projects serving ethnic-run organizations were funded for the coming fiscal year.

In an effort to encourage financial stability, nine mid-size and six large organizations received Arizona ArtShare Working Capital Grants.

The Commission also continues to support the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education (AAAE) to help teachers statewide implement the Arts Standards, and support ARTability-Accessing Arizona's Arts for statewide service to connect people with disabilities and the arts.

To see the specific grants by city and county or in alphabetic order, visit the press release page on our website at [www.ArizonaArts.org/media\\_room/releases/index.htm](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/media_room/releases/index.htm).

### **New Presidents to Usher in Silver Anniversary, New Era of Arts Advocacy in Arizona**

Tucson restaurateur and long-time arts advocate, Don Luria, was elected president of Arizona Citizens for the Arts (formerly Arizonans for Cultural Development) last month, leading the organization into its twenty-fifth anniversary year. Arizona Action for the Arts, charged with promoting public policy favorable to the arts, elected its inaugural president, arts and business consultant, Jim Copenhaver.

As president of Arizona Citizens for the Arts, Luria is tasked with increasing discussion and awareness of the importance and impact of the arts in achieving quality of life, educational excellence, and economic health for all Arizonans and Arizona enterprises.

Copenhaver, Senior Partner of the consulting firm of J C Enterprises-Focused Learning, specializes in aiding arts organizations in transition.

Arizona Action for the Arts promotes public dialogue, public policy and legislation favorable to the arts, ensures and increases state funding for the arts, and serves as a resource for expanding other public arts funding sources.

### **Southwest Arts Conference 2006**

Friday, January 27, 2006  
8:00AM-4:30PM  
Glendale Civic Center

We're designing next year's conference so all attendees have an opportunity to come away with an experience like Regina Kelly of Tucson:

"Attending SWAC as a staff, we get inspired together - the communal experience builds and reinvigorates team camaraderie. I appreciate the Commission's leadership on encouraging Arizona arts organizations to be a learning community." -Regina Kelly, Voices

Visit our SWAC webpage for updates at [www.ArizonaArts.org/swac](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/swac).

### **Arizona Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program**

The Arizona Commission on the Arts in collaboration with the Southwest Center at the University of Arizona and support from the NEA will unveil a new opportunity for folk artists, the Arizona Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. Program guidelines are posted on the web at [www.ArizonaArts.org/folkarts](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/folkarts). Applications are now being accepted; postmark deadline is September 15, 2005. For more information, contact Mitch Menchaca at (602) 229-8229 or [mmenchaca@arizonaarts.org](mailto:mmenchaca@arizonaarts.org).

## Arizona to Host Two Major Arts and Accessibility Conferences

Agendas have been set for two major conferences to be held in Arizona this fall. These promise to be remarkable opportunities to help make arts experiences accessible to everyone and to build participation in the arts.

### **LEAD/Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Training and Conference**

September 29-October 1, 2005

*For representatives of arts and cultural organizations there will be pre-conference workshop intensives September 28, 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Mesa Arts Center and the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts*

You and your staff and volunteers should have the information and judgment to make smart, informed decisions about serving patrons and volunteers with disabilities. LEAD is designed not only for accessibility managers of theaters, concert halls, colleges/universities, museums, presenting organizations and touring companies, but also has sessions designed especially for marketing staff, box office and house management, outreach/education directors and visitor services coordinators, including "Accessibility for Under \$100," "Making Outdoor Events and Exhibits Accessible," and preconference intensives for marketing directors, box office managers and accessibility "rookies."

Registration is just \$125 for nonprofits and colleges/universities; with two or more team members the registration fees drop to just \$95 per person. Preconference registration packages and one-day discount passes are also available. For full information and a registration form, visit [www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/KC\\_LeadConf\\_05.pdf](http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/KC_LeadConf_05.pdf), or call 202/416-8727.

Small and rural arts organizations in Arizona may request travel stipends to assist with attendance. For details, visit [www.ArizonaArts.org/online\\_tools/accessibility/index.htm](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/online_tools/accessibility/index.htm).

**LEAD is sponsored by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.**

### **Building Your Career**

October 1-2, 2005

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

This forum is for Arizona artists with disabilities, and those who work to develop creative career opportunities for Arizonans (arts managers, presenters, publishers, and exhibitors in both the commercial and non-profit sectors), and service and government organizations who work with artists, people with disabilities, or jobseekers. *Building Your Career* is a professional development, networking and solution-building conference, focusing on those artists and managers who are on a career path, and are committed to their professional development.

Conference highlights include Keynote speaker John Killacky; interactive presentations and discussion with local, regional and national artists and artswriters, including the *Creative Industries Study*; development of personal career action plans; dialogue about marketing your work as an artist; networking regarding career development; and creation of a statewide conversation about the needs of those who engage/present artists, and their obstacles to engaging/presenting artists with disabilities. Application deadline: August 19, 2005. For full Forum and application information, visit [www.ArizonaArts.org/buildingyourcareerforum](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/buildingyourcareerforum); or call 602/229-8220 or 602/229-8232.

*Building Your Career* is presented by the Arizona Commission on the Arts and VSA arts of Arizona. This Forum is sponsored by The National Endowment for the Arts, VSA arts, and the National Arts and Disability Center at the University of California Los Angeles



*John Killacky*

### **John R. Killacky returns to Arizona as Keynote Speaker**

*"A Personal Voice: The Emergent Arts/Disability Discourse"*

*Joint Plenary Session of Building Your Career and the LEAD/Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Training and Conference*

SWAC attendees in 2003 will remember John's keynote speech "Staying on Mission." Now you'll share another side of this unique individual whose life bridges the worlds of artists, arts managers, and arts philanthropy. Program Director for Arts and Culture at The San Francisco Foundation, a nationally-recognized leader in the field of arts presenting, and an artist with a disability, John will screen his film "Crip Shots," which has received screenings and awards at disability film festivals in North America and Europe, and share his sometimes-difficult navigation between the arts world and the disability community, both nationally and internationally. His personal experiences and discoveries as he has made his own way, can expand the dialogue about the work we all do. As the arts/disability community begins to come into its own, John will engage this joint gathering of artists and arts workers in a discussion of our individual and collective vision, realities, and aspirations for accessibility and the arts. An open-mike Q&A will follow John's presentation.

## ACA Accepting New Applications for *Residency Roster* in Fall 2005

The Commission is now accepting new applications for the *Arizona Arts Roster* for artists in the following disciplines: Architecture/Design; Folk Arts: Visual, Music Performance/Composition; Theatre Performance/Playwriting/Directing; and Visual Arts/Curating/Media Arts. The deadline date for online applications is **September 15, 2005**. Interested artists must apply online on the Commission website at [www.ArizonaArts.org/artists/aguide/residency\\_roster.htm](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/artists/aguide/residency_roster.htm).

All applicants will be required to interview with a panel and, for performing artists, conduct a live audition with a panel. These panels will be scheduled in October.

Current *Roster* artists in the above categories are eligible to remain on the *Roster* in the same discipline as long as you inform us of your intention to do so before the **September 15, 2005** deadline. Current *Roster* artists that wish to remain on the *Roster* are required to send an email to [RosterArtists@ArizonaArts.org](mailto:RosterArtists@ArizonaArts.org) before midnight, **September 15, 2005** and update their information. If we do not receive an email of your intent, your name will be removed from the *Arizona Arts Roster*. If you do not have access to email, mail in your intent to remain on the *Roster*, postmarked by **September 15, 2005**.

## Artist Projects Grants

Artists are invited to submit applications for artist projects grants. These awards of up to \$5,000 are for artists to create new work, in all genres.

Before writing your proposal, we recommend calling the ACA program director in your artistic discipline to discuss your proposal. The program directors will be able to give you thoughtful feedback on what has helped make applications competitive with panels in the past.

Visit the Commission website to view detailed instructions for applying for a grant, and to see detailed descriptions of past winners' projects: [www.ArizonaArts.org/artists](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/artists). Throughout the summer, the Commission is also offering free community meetings for artists in all disciplines to come together to share information about projects they are working on and to learn updated news about grants and services from the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Please visit our website calendar for a list of locations and times in your area at [www.ArizonaArts.org/media\\_room/index.htm#calendar](http://www.ArizonaArts.org/media_room/index.htm#calendar).

**The postmark deadline for applications for Artist Projects Grants is Thursday, September 15, 2005.**

## Arizona Commission on the Arts *the state arts agency*

Through public support of the arts, the Commission works on behalf of the people of Arizona linking the arts and communities. The Arizona Commission on the Arts provides services and funding to help make the connection between artists and communities vital and of lasting value.

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This document is available in an alternative format by contacting the Arts Commission at 602/255-5882.

Announcements about non-Commission-sponsored activities and opportunities are provided as a service. Questions about accessibility or alternative format should be directed to the designated contact.




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**For a complete listing of artist opportunities, jobs and information and referral, visit our website: [www.ArizonaArts.org](http://www.ArizonaArts.org)**

## RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

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